SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — April 17, 1972

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

The Opportunity to Score Exploits Has Come!

For the Independence and Freedom of the Fatherland, Let All the Officers and Combatants on All Battlefields Dash Forward in the Impetus of Victory!

Order of the South Viet Nam PLAF Command

OUR armed forces and people are recording big victories on all battlefronts, repeatedly attacking and wiping out the enemy from Quang Tri-Thua Thien area, the High Plateaux to the 5th Zone and Nam Bo (Mekong River Delta).

Everywhere in South Viet Nam, our people are vigorously rising up, smashing the US-Thieu domination and seizing power.

The US imperialists and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique of traitors are sustaining heavy failures and being driven into a critical situation. The morale of enemy officers and soldiers is sagging seriously. Many big units of the enemy forces have been wiped out. Many others have refused to fight, surrendered or disbanded.

The armed forces and people of Laos and Cambodia are also violently attacking the enemy and scoring many great victories.

In order to stave off failures and save their henchmen, the US imperialists are brazenly sending more air and naval forces to Viet Nam to kill our people in the South and brutally bomb and shell the northern part of our country.

The heroic armed forces and people in the North have duly punished these aggressive acts, shooting down many aircraft and setting ablaze many warships of the US.

In implementation of our beloved President Ho Chi Minh's sacred Testament and in response to the earnest aspirations of our people in both North and South Viet Nam, the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces orders all the officers and combatants of the PLAF, regional forces and guerillas on all battlefronts:

1) To uphold the determination to fight and to win, to bring into full play the combined strength of the three categories of armed forces, and the combat power of the regular troops, regional forces and guerillas, to closely coordinate the infantry with the other arms and services, and tightly combine all battlefields, so as to strike hard, record big victories, wipe out large portions of enemy live forces and war means, capture more enemy troops, seize more weapons, smash the enemy defensive lines on all battlefronts and seize the opportunity to develop our offensive victoriously;

2) To effectively help our people living in enemy-held areas attack and rise up simultaneously, step up the people's war, break the enemy coercive machine, seize control of, and liberate their native lands, frustrate the enemy "rural pacification" program, vigorously push ahead the revolutionary struggle in the urban centres, and consolidate and promote our posture of offensive in the three strategic areas: the mountains, the plains and urban centers;

3) To strictly carry out the ten-point policy of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, closely combine military attack with political agitation among enemy troops, persuade puppet officers and men into rising up, revolting, mutinying, leaving the enemy ranks and crossing over to the people and the liberation forces; to call on "popular defence" members to coordinate with the people in liberating their villages and hamlets, and to talk with the families of enemy troops so that they appeal the latter to join in the revolution.

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The triumphant NFL flag planted on Peak 544

US President Nixon's Love for Children and Its Consequences

The Tinh Thuong Co Nhi (*Love for Orphans*) *Review, organ of the Movement for Children's and War Orphans' Right to Live, has been concerned with the lot of the orphans, victims of the US war of aggression in South Viet Nam. We are quoting below words of some of the children at the Saigon Orphanage, recorded by* **Dieu Lan**:

Father goes soldiering

Father was called up. It would be long before he could return. Grandpa and grandma, old and weak, had to live with mum and 8 of us. The allowances were far from enough for rice and house rent. Mum had to get a job as barmaid. Sometime later, she went with American "Dad" to the states. My two elder brothers became shoe-shining boys. My sister Ba hired herself as a labourer. My other sister Tu did the cooking for grandpa and grandma. My brother Nam sold newspapers. Little Sang missed mother very much and had died from lack of milk. My younger brother Huong, younger sister Hoa and I were admitted to the orphanage.

Once father came back to see us. He bitterly wept when he met us.

SAU, 10, *Long Thanh Orphanage*

American "Aid"

I'm terribly afraid of aircraft. They roar and drop bombs. My mother was killed by them while working in the field and survived by me. My father and many men and women, many old persons and children, were gunned down by American soldiers when they entered the village. Orphaned, I had to enter this establishment.

CAY, 7, *Thu Duc Orphanage*

S.O.S.

All but I know at least something about their parents. Where are my father and my mother now? Are they still living? Are they poor or rich? How can I know all that? Nobody has ever come and seen me. Why? I have tried hard to find out. Miss Sau who lives nearby and who often comes here to do some work, has pity on me. She has told me that my mother was a girl student very fond of "modern living." She was seduced by a lady's man. I was born out of this affair. To hush up the scandal, my grand mother forced my mother to abandon me.

HOA, 8, *Go Vap Orphanage*

Lower Laos

My mother wept bitterly when she sent us here. My father drafted into the army had just died in action in Lower Laos. His body could not be brought home. Death benefits were very meager. For all her hard work, my mother could not raise us...

MAI, 6, *Phuoc Loc Tho Orphanage*

Poverty

Mine was a family of many children, 12 in all. My father was a cyclocab driver. He worked all the day long and came back home only late in the night. My mother was a street vendor. More often than not, we had to eat thin soup. Naturally we could not afford medicare when we fell sick and five of us died. Last year mother got a cold and fell seriously ill. All the 7 of us had to enter this camp.

THANH, 7, *Long Thanh Orphanage*

Bomb

Mother and father were killed by bombs. My cousin took charge of me. Last year he was sent into action in Cambodia. He has not been heard of since. He may have got killed. Her wife refused to take care of me any longer...

THIEN, 8, *Long Thanh Orphanage*

Half-bred child

Mum sent me here because Papa "John" returned to America. She had to look for another "Dad."

TU, 5, *Long Thanh Orphanage*

File on US crimes

5,000 raids in a week

INFURIATED by their ever heavier setbacks on all the battlefields, the US-Thieu clique have been refraining from no brutalities against the people in the cities as well as in the country in South Viet Nam.

In only 6 days ending March 31, 5,000 raids were mounted in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Quy Nhon cities... during which 114 civilians were shot dead on the spot, 3,000 others arrested and 160 taken to unknown destinations.

In rural areas where the people were living in an oppressive atmosphere, the US-Saigon troops staged repeated air strikes, sweeps and chemical poison sprays. On the night of March 23, hundreds of 105mm artillery shells were fired on populated areas and the Cao Dai Holy See in Tay Ninh province. It should be recalled that the same place had been on many occasions attacked by the US-Thieu clique. Earlier in 1970, American and Saigon troops swept many localities in Tay Ninh. They assaulted and set afire the whole Ba Den mountain area, destroyed churches and arrested monks and nuns of the pagodas and have detained them up to now.

In a sweep on the night of March 24 against My Hoa hamlet, My Tu village (Tay Ninh), the assailants killed a 72-year-old Cao Dai priest of Minh Chon Sect named Tran Phong Sac, chopped off one of his arms and hang it at the My Tu military sub-sector as a "warning" to the passers-by. They also injured with shots a 25-year-old woman Buddhist named Bach Tuyet, then gang-raped her to death and fired several shots at her corpse before withdrawing.

In a protracted operation (from December 20, 1971 to March 5, 1972) in Vinh Hao village (Go Quao district) and Hoa Thuan village (Giong Rieng district, Rach Gia province), the US-Saigon troops rained 110,000 artillery shells, dropped thousands of tons of bombs on populated areas, killing some 100 civilians, wounding 300 others, mostly children and old folks. The raiders assaulted 100 women, tortured 50 people, burned down 150 houses and plundered an amount of the people's property worth 15 million piastres (Saigon currency).

Everybody still remembers the hair-raising Son My massacre perpetrated by the US-Thieu clique on March 16, 1968 which made over 500 civilian deaths. Last February 28 and 29, a raid was launched against Truong Dinh, Tu Cung and My Khe hamlets, also in Son My village, where several people were slaughtered and 50 others put in jail. Many survivors of the Son My mass murder such as Quang Tan, 24, a young woman Do Thi Meo, 24, and Do Chung, 60, were also arrested and savagely tortured.

In Quang Ngai as well as in many other provinces of Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam proper), the US-Thieu clique increased the spraying of toxic chemicals against people and vegetation. They also dumped them on pasture land to deny food to draught animals, the peasants' main hauling power. In that region alone 80 per cent of buffaloes and oxen have died after grazing poisoned grass.

US-Thieu bombs and noxious chemicals have been responsible for famine in South Viet Nam. In Quang Ngai, a prolonged dearth has been threatening the population. Many rice-fields in earing stage ran short of water. In spite of that, the US-Saigon regime has raised the price of rice from 31 piastres to 40 piastres a pound and those of other commodities, which has made life harder for the people in Quang Ngai.

• On March 29, while the Thieu clique unwarrantedly brought many students and pupils before the "military court of the Third Tactical Zone," about 100 students representing the pupils and students everywhere gathered in front of the Saigon "Lower House," lined up many posters denouncing the arbitrary trial, and demanded freedom for the accused. The Saigon medical students also decided to extend their strike three more days while Cao Dat pupils also decided a school boycott.

• Nearly 1,000 pupils in Trang Bang (Tay Ninh province) turned out in the streets and carried posters urging the quisling administration to let them study instead of drafting them as cannon-fodder. In support of the pupils' action the local bus trade-union decided a walk-out and jammed the crossroads to prevent the police from attacking the pupils.

• On March 23, the Alliance of Cao Dai Notables sent a letter to the World Council of Churches in Geneva denouncing US aggression in Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries, and demanding that the US renounce this policy and abandon all client "administrations" to let the South Vietnamese people freely choose a political regime conform to their national aspirations.

In the cities

• Of late, the "Catholic Movement for Peace" issued a statement pointing out that "only when the US imperialists give up their aggressive ambitions under any form can peace be restored in this land." The statement urged that the US imperialists and their satellites withdraw all troops and weapons from the Indochinese countries and put an immediate end to their support of US-sponsored governments in Indochina. Regarding the role of the world good-will organizations, the statement asserted that "what matters is to end the war crimes of the US imperialists and not only to heal the wounds generated by these crimes." The statement therefore calls on the world religious organizations to effectively check the US imperialists' aggressive ambitions in Viet Nam.

• In the first days of April, Nguyen Van Thieu took many harsh measures to put a black-out on the news on military operations in an attempt to conceal his heavy setbacks in Quang Tri. On April 3 alone, 17 Saigon papers were confiscated for having carried reports about the defection of a Saigon unit stationed in Carroll base on Highway 9.

• Since April 5, all students from 13 colleges in Saigon have gone on strike to oppose Nguyen Van Thieu's order to enlist all people from 15 to 50 years into the "people's self-defence corps" and to demand the release of all students arbitrarily arrested since September 1971.

• Public opinion in Saigon and South Viet Nam is running high against the National Committee to Mobilize Manpower newly set up to intensify impress, prolong and extend the war, and denouncing it as a military organization to serve US "Vietnamization."

• On April 1, the students of the Faculty of Letters in Saigon published a protest letter against the Thieu clique's police trespassing their quarters, tearing off posters, streamers, seizing printing presses and tools, arresting and ill treating students and pupils. The Students' Executive Committee and the Catholic Students' Union (Literary Section) strongly criticized those brutalities and claimed immediate freedom for the students arrested.

Well - coordinated offensives

A series of important events marked Saigon's political life at the end of March 1972. They had a deep impact upon the Saigonese.

There was a great upsurge of the workers' movement for wage lifts, against lay-offs and US-Thieu repression and exploitation. It enjoyed the participation of workers of the main branches of activity: oil, chemical products, road and river transport, civilian and military services of the US and Saigon administration, Michelin rubber tyre factory, wharves, etc. Most remarkable was the strike of 5,000 workers at Saigon harbour lasting two days March 17 and 18, which brought all port activities to a standstill and compelled the employers and Saigon administration to meet the workers' wage increase claim.

The campaign against terror and for democratic rights continued to spread among the youth students, pupils, intellectuals and women. On March 22 and 23, patriotic intellectuals, students, pupils and women such as Mme Ngo Ba Thanh, Prof. Tran Thi Lan, students Nguyen Duy Thong, Nguyen Xuan Thuong, Nguyen Huy Dien, pupil Le Van Nuoi, etc., turned US-Saigon military courts into rostrums from where to denounce the aggressors and traitors, their atrocities and rottenness. "Down with Nguyen Van Thieu", "To die rather than to be subdued by brutal force and live as slaves" — such slogans were shouted or written in blood on the walls, shaking the enemy courts, and rousing public opinion. The US-Saigon regime, assaulted by those voices of justice, had to bow at least temporarily to the patriotic and revolutionary masses and adjourn the trials.

Religious bodies also joined in the protest: statements were issued by the "Catholic Movement for Peace," the "Alliance of Cao Dai personalities" and 12 sects and believers' organizations of the Cao Dai, to flay the US-Thieu "Vietnamization" program and demand an end to the Viet Nam war of aggression, US troop withdrawal, Thieu's resignation and forming of a national concord government with a view to achieving democracy and peace.

The various drives mentioned above reflected the strength and offensive posture of the Saigonese and their democratic, progressive and patriotic forces. This assumed a special significance as the battle took place even at the enemy's military courts protected by layers of barbed wire, at the point of their bayonets. On the other hand, it was an indication of the US-Thieu weakness, losing posture, utter isolation and embarrassment in face of our people's anger and resolve to fight and to win.

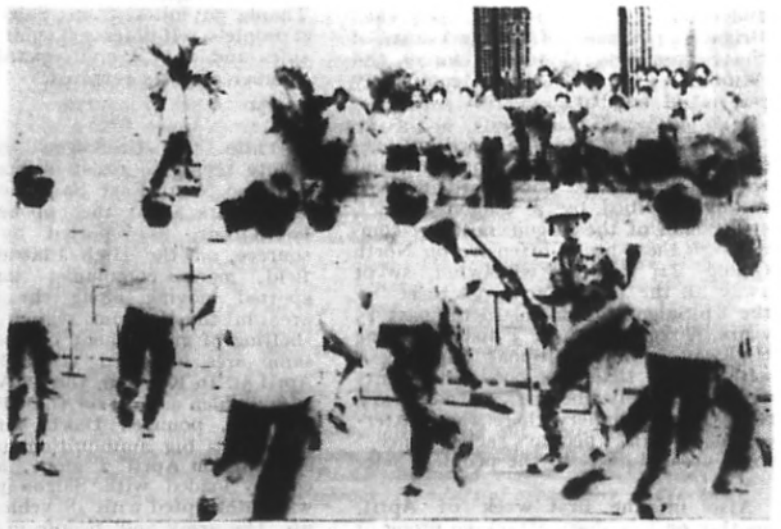
As rightly pointed out by Mrs Kieu Mong Thu, an "MP" of the Saigon regime: "History will inscribe on stelae the crimes of the US-Thieu. It is already witnessing the inevitable collapse of their fiendish regime." The following remark by Professor Ly Chanh Trung in *Dien Tin* (Telegraph) was also relevant: "The Thieu clique may confiscate all papers publishing reports on what happened at the two court sessions in the trial of Mme Thanh and students and pupils, but it cannot banish the people's sympathetic feeling toward patriots and anger with aggressors and traitors."

The powerful protest of workers, youth, students, pupils, intellectuals, women, religious believers at the end of March last, especially the undauntedness of patriotic "prisoners" facing trial at fascist tribunals, has instilled a new pride into the Saigonese of all walks of life—heirs to the traditions of heroic militancy of the city bearing the name of Ho Chi Minh.

The present situation is eminently favourable to the fight of the people in Saigon. In all battlefields throughout Indochina, the US imperialists and their main tool—the Saigon army—are being heavily clobbered by liberation forces. In South Viet Nam's rural areas peasants, who have sworn not to live under the same sky with the US and Thieu, are rising up millions as one to shatter the "pacification" program. Popular masses are taking to the streets at Hue, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Bong Son and ther cities with the firm resolve to do away with brutal oppression. Internationally, the US-Thieu administrations are more isolated than ever. In the United States, the American people have resumed their ebullient drive against Nixon and for an end to the Viet Nam war of aggression and total withdrawal of US troops.

There is no doubt the Saigonese of all classes will grasp the opportunity and develop to the full their current posture of offensive, launch against the enemy coordinated actions with the general drive of the whole nation to foil US "Vietnamization."

(*Giai Phong Press Agency* Saigon Bureau)



Saigon students storming the Saigon Congress building's lobby in a demonstration against the US-Thieu crimes

The Secret of a Wonderful Booklet

THAT night, old Kha could not sleep a wink. After listening to the NFL militant, he found the 10-point policy of the PRG as clear as daylight and full with generosity and humaneness. He got up, lit the lamp and started re-reading, page after page, the blue booklet he had obtained in the evening. It contained the policy towards those who had strayed from the right path, pieces of advice to families whose menfolks had been impressed into the Saigon army... The old man was seized with compunction: If only Ba, his son who had been drafted into the army, had lived to this day! Anyhow, there still were many others who had been led astray and issued guns to fight against their will for the Americans and their agents. The humane and generous policy of the NFL must be made known to them at all costs.

Hardly had the day broken when the troops from the outpost facing village T. (Quang Tri) went out on a foray. Last night, Liberation men visited the area without their knowing it. When morning came, they found plenty of leaflets on the barbed-wire entanglements and on village lanes.

Four boyish-looking soldiers, weapons in hand, listlessly walked past old Kha's house. The old man warmly invited them in for a cup of hot tea.

After telling his little grand-son to make a fire and boil some water, he broke the ice, "Up and out early, hey! Where are you going now?"

"Collect the leaflets!" The oldest of the 4 replied. "There must be a lot of those Liberation men who moved in here last night. Haven't you seen that leaflets are everywhere in the village?"

"Oh yes, I have. But tell me what is on those leaflets?"

"We haven't read them. The commanding officer is watching us all the time. He will shoot dead anyone who take a look at them."

Old Kha produced the booklet he had been hiding inside his jacket and, all of a sudden, told the soldiers, "Early this morning, I went out to see what happened and picked up this booklet. Would you mind reading it to me, please!"

The soldiers snatched the booklet and read it with keen interest, at first in a low whisper, then louder and louder. They lively commented and explained to one another this point or that. The old man told them what he had heard last night. A soldier cursed, "Give it to the bastards! The Liberation policy is quite plain. Yet the officers keep scaring us. We have been told that if w surrender, the Viet Cong will torture us, behead us, cut off our ears or at least jail us for life. Goddamit, we should never listen to them!"

The soldiers insistently asked old Kha to give them the booklet so that others in their post could also read it. Seeing them off, the old man added a few words:

"My son, like you, was drafted into the army, but he was killed. He was far unluckier than you. If only he had survived! Try to behave yourselves, sons!"

The soldiers thoughtfully listened to him, then took leave of him. A few days later, old Kha was told that a number of soldiers had left their post, some crossing over to the revolutionary side bringing along their weapon, others returning to their families. The remainder became less truculent.

PLAF WIDESPREAD SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS

■ Resounding Victories in Eastern Nam Bo
■ Ebullient Uprisings in the Mekong Delta

IN the first days of April, the People's Liberation Armed Forces mounted a series of violent attacks on the US-Saigon defence lines on all the Battlefields of South Viet Nam.

On the Tri-Thien-Hue front, 13 enemy bases and 12 gun emplacements were flattened ; Saigon Division 3, the key defensive force in the area, was knocked out, and its regiment 56 staged a mutiny and defected to the revolutionary side. Brigade 147, one of the two units of the Saigon general reserve force, and Armoured Column 11 were completely put out of combat.

In only 5 days ending April 3, over 6,500 adverse men were wiped out, and the remainders fled southward in disorder as described by a Saigon colonel, spokesman of the Saigon military command, "the 6-prong offensive on North Quang Tri" like a whirlwind, swept away all the results achieved there by the US-Saigon Command in the past 15 years. A region of over 13 districts along Highway 9 and National Highway 1 with more than 100,000 inhabitants were completely liberated, the adversary repressive machinery there was shattered, the entire "people's self-defence" force crossed over to the people's side.

Also in the first week of April, another on less sharp attacking prong of the patriotic forces broke through the North Saigon defence line in Binh Long and Tay Ninh provinces. The 5th Division, known as a "core" units there, was thrashed, and its Army Column 9 and an armoured unit with several armoured vehicles coming to its rescue surrendered to the PLAF. In Binh Long within only 3 days ending April 7, the South Viet Nam army and people inflicted nearly 3,500 casualties, neatly wrote off Armoured Regiment One, two infantry battalions and one artillery battalion, levelled 26 positions, posts or bases on an area of 1,000 square miles, thus completely liberating Loc Ninh district with a 28,000 population controlling Highway 13 (North of Chon Thanh, 30 miles from Saigon). Many "people's self-defence" units changed sides and the "civil guards" in a number of posts revolted.

While the US-Saigon troops were vainly trying to resist in North Quang Tri and North-East Saigon completely in the dark about the opponent's main battlefront, as reported by military sources, on the High Plateaux battlefield, many communist tanks were spotted moving along the tri-border area in the Kontum region, and "the shelling of government outposts in the same area increased visibly" (*Reuter*, April 5). In Kontum, the PLAF mounted a sudden assault on the CP of Regiment 47, pounded Dakto airport, destroying a big ammunition storage. In Gia Lai, on April 2 alone, an enemy convoy loaded with Saigon paratroops was intercepted with 48 vehicles blown up. The army and people in the High Plateaux, through co-ordinated offensives and uprisings, were responsible for over 1,400 adverse casualties, and 41 aircraft wrecked. The spokesman of the Saigon military command revealed that "a 3-prong attack was also conducted in the High Plateaux." The US and its stooges showed growing passiveness. As remarked by *UPI*, the last reserve force for South Viet Nam as a whole — a para-brigade — was moved from Saigon to Pleiku by US C-130 planes. Meanwhile, military activities flared up in the Mekong Delta. Late on the night of April 6 alone, the PLAF big offensives again erupted throughout the 8 delta provinces. Several military sub-sectors, regiment and battalion CPs were quickly wiped out or heavily decimated. In Ca Mau, 4 battalions and companies of Saigon regular army were put out of action in a single night. Over 1,000 men of Regiment 33 (Division 21) were killed or wounded. In Ben Tre, officers and men of two battalions of Regiment 10 (Division 7) opposed war and disobeyed marching orders. People in the provincial capital and two neighbouring districts stood up to crush the enemy grip and wrest back control over their land. In the same night, the patriotic forces in Vinh Long overran and caused heavy losses to 3 military sub-sectors, destroyed the province airport and helped over 10,000 people there rise up. The military situation was tense in the Mekong Delta where the US-Saigon had assessed that the "4th front was to be opened." Appraising these developments, the French paper *Echo* believied in the possibility of a more important offensive against Saigon from the West. Late on the night of April 8, several new attacks by the patriotic forces took place in the delta provinces of Central Trung Bo. In Quang Nam, Battalion One (Regiment 5) was quickly written off, 6 "militia" platoons were disbanded. In the same night, the PLAF in Binh Dinh province trounced 3 "civil guard" companies and the regional forces in Khanh Hoa assailed the Cam Ranh military port, destroying many fuel and weapon dumps.

Such violent and relentless military actions of the South Viet Nam army and people throughout the first 10 days of April on all the US-Saigon defence lines have thrown the White House into an utter confusion. According to *AFP* on April 4, the Pentagon was so "embarrassed that it does not want or is not in a position to anticipate what would happen in South Viet Nam." Nixon has ordered more retaliatory bombing raids, hurriedly sent 5 more destroyers equipped with big guns to the Eastern Sea (4 to the northern part and one to the southern part) in an attempt to check the communists' advance. 2 "companies of US Mobile Air Cavalry Division One were deployed to the dwindling northern front" (*AFP*, April 5).

The intensity of the current PLAF assault in all parts of South Viet Nam described by *AP* on April 5 as the "biggest ever offensives" since the Mau Than Tet festival, has greatly surprised the White House, and aggravated the US-Saigon passive posture and sent their troops' morale further, thereby creating more favourable conditions for the South Vietnamese army and people to step up their actions and uprisings, and win more and greater successes.

The PLAF's charge, after pounding enemy position

Enemy artillery site in Tan Lam occupied by the PLAF

REVOLUTIONARY POWER SET UP IN GIO LE VILLAGE (QUANG TRI)

DOC MIEU base to the north, Quan Ngang base to the south, Ben Sanh outpost to the east and a security forces company encamped at Upper Ru Ha to the west seemed to enclose the 6,000 inhabitants of Gio Le within a steel ring. US marines, ARVN soldiers, security force men, civil guards, informers, tyrants, reactionary political factions, etc., all were out to terrorize, repress and subdue the local people. They resorted to abominable cruelties and vicious tricks to regroup all the 6,000 inhabitants of Gio Le into the Quan Ngang concentration area, but could dislodge no more than one-third of them. The remainder, over 4,000, resolutely refused to leave their village. Every day, a security force company, together with secret agents and bravos, moved about the village to spy on the inhabitants but they could not cut off the link between the Gio Le people and the revolutionary forces. They then started a screening. Old men and women who had relatives in the revolutionary ranks were grouped in a school yard and put under close surveillance. For days, they were to attend classes for a break with the revolution. They were bullied, and savagely beaten up and tortured. In the end, the enemy plan failed to work.

Living under the enemy's grip, the inhabitants of Gio Le had set many examples of indomitableness. For 4 years running, Mme C. had kept up agitation work among the enemy troops and succeeded in talking nearly 100 of them over to the people's side. Old K., known as a "bulletin of news," always turned current events into good account to bring home the certain victory of the Revolution and the policies of the NFL to the Saigon soldiers, and won them over to the people's side. At night, using loudspeakers, people worked on soldiers in their posts. Day in day out leaflets were scattered everywhere, meant for the Saigon soldiers. The Revolution secured a firm foothold in the hearts of the inhabitants. Cruel agents were liquidated one after another. The quisling administration officials had to go into hiding from 3 p.m. to 8 a.m. The enemy's coercive machine became less and less effective. The popular defence platoon was neutralized.

Revolutionary zeal grew among the people. On the afternoon of March 30, 1972, the opportunity offered itself. Doc Mieu base came under attack while Quan Ngang was put under siege. The Ben Sanh post and other enemy positions at Gio Le were also the targets of Liberation men's attacks. The people of Gio Le rose up as one man and seized power. Liberation flags fluttered over green bamboo groves and over the roofs of the village and hamlet council offices and the village lanes. The Saigon troops and local quisling officials were completely at a loss and wavered. Everywhere, they ran into big posters reading, "Power here is in the hands of the Liberation Army and people. Lay down your arms and return to the revolutionary side."

The enemy's grip was soon broken. The local tyrants were captured. The remnants of the enemy troops gave themselves up. Over 50 families forcibly relocated at Quan Ngang moved back to their native village.

On April 2, 1972, surviving enemy troops at Doc Mieu retreated. Gio Le was completely liberated. Under the guidance of the NFL cadres, the people in each hamlet met to discuss measures to assist one another in restoring to normal their everyday life. They dug trenches and built shelters against enemy artillery and air bombardments, and continued hounding down the die-hards. They decided to hang on to their village and started establishing revolutionary power and building a new life. Everything was done to consolidate the newly-liberated zone, and there was readiness to contribute manpower and material resources to the battlefront, so as to drive out the US aggressors, topple the quislings and win total victory.

editorial

OUR ALL-SIDED ATTACKS EVERYWHERE

THE whole of South Viet Nam is striking hard and scoring big victories. Following the PLAF resounding gains in Tri-Thien, feats of arms one after another have been achieved on the operation theatres of the High Plateaux, Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper) and Central Trung Bo.

While giving full play to their recent gains, the Tri-Thien people and armed forces continue attacking and uprising. They have destroyed the Cua Viet naval base, shattered the Quan Ngang internment zone, besieged Quang Tri provincial town, assaulted and occupied many major positions in Tan Lam, Khe Gio, Dong Tranh...

In the High Plateaux, the CP of the Saigon Regiment 47 was overrun, the Dakto airfield shelled, and a rescue detachment intercepted and inflicted heavy loss in live forces. Scores of military vehicles were wrecked and quantity of weapons and war means captured.

In the eastern part of Nam Bo, the local population and PLAF have since the night of March 31st mounted attacks, uprisen and seized control. Northwestern Saigon defense system was subject to violent assaults, while staggering punches were dealt at enemy military sectors of Loc Ninh and Hon Quan. Numbers of major strongholds came under the PLAF bombardments. In the meantime, adverse troops were intercepted on Routes 13 and 22. Many positions were overrun and occupied by the PLAF, and the control of extensive areas was in the hands of the population. Elements of the security and civil guard forces in northern Gia Dinh and Thu Dau Mot received smarting blows from regional troops and militia.

The internees in strategic hamlets around Binh Long provincial town, northern Gia Dinh and some areas of Ba Ria and Long Khanh provinces, have risen up, broken away from the enemy grip and become the masters of their native places.

The Mekong Delta also witnessed the impetuous offensive of revolutionary mettle. In the small hours of April 7, the population and armed forces of My Tho, Soc Trang, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Ca Mau, Rach Gia provinces staged simultaneous onsets and uprisings, besieged and shattered a series of military posts, military sectors, HQ, wiped out a large number of enemy, shattered strategic hamlets, smashed the coercive machine and seized control over many areas.

Units of the Saigon soldiery were wiped out, ammo dumps blasted in such provinces as Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Khanh Hoa, Central Trung Bo where the PLAF conducted violent attacks, and the population rose up in an uproar. Numbers of areas were under their control.

ALL strategic zones have become the scenes of stormy attacks and tremendous uprisings. On all the fronts we scored not a few military and political gains. Persuasion work among the Saigon troops was a success too. No hard shells, no obstacles could hinder the march of our fighters who made deep thrusts, laid tight sieges, trounced adverse troops, gutted tanks and armoured cars, downed planes, occupied airfields, captured the enemy and made a big haul of arms and ammunition. Our successes on all the battlefields show a high technique in attacks: excellent application of various operational formulas, close co-ordination between the three categories of troops, between various arms, all this combined with the masses' and patriotic-minded Saigon troops' uprising. Our PLAF and people have overwhelmed the enemy right in their important defense lines.

Popular uprisings tightly combined with the PLAF attacks have brought out the profound significance of our gains. The tide of uprisings has helped notably, and created favourable conditions for, the PLAF attacks. Reciprocally, the latter have given the population the opportunities to rise up, shatter strategic hamlets and internment centres, and seize control. Uprising, wiping out the enemy, breaking their grip, setting up revolutionary powers and armed forces, our people are developing the spirit of revolutionary offensive unseen so far.

Agitation work among enemy troops which constitutes an important prong of attack has also been carried out most cleverly. The RSVN PRG's 10-point policy with regard to patriotic actions taken by the Saigon troops and their families is producing its effects. Some units of the Saigon army have taken anti-war actions, mutinied, rallied the people's side with their arms, and were warmly welcomed by their countrymen.

THE PLAF attacks and popular uprisings are driving the US and its hirelings into utter distress. The Saigon army, that backbone of the Vietnamization of the war, has been broken by portion. The hard shell made of all kinds of US means of war, could not save the Saigon army from deliquescence in face of the PLAF fires of attacks. Their "pacification" plan is being wrecked by big fragments and Nixon's Vietnamization policy seriously checked.

These attacks and uprisings are the vivid illustration of our PLAF and people's determination to fight and to win. In full strength we are forging ahead. We have defeated the US huge expeditionary corps and are now smashing to pieces the Saigon army. The flames of our attacks and uprisings are raging. The PLAF Command's recent order has sounded the clarion of charge all over South Viet Nam's fronts.

SOUTH VIET NAM in Struggle

Thundering return-blows ready for them

BEATEN black and blue in Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Kontum, Binh Long... war theatres, Nixon has sent his air marauders to encroach upon the DRVN territory. Aircraft-carriers have been sent to Viet Nam off seas together with more B.52s and fighters for wanton air bombings and shellings of populated areas in both zones of Viet Nam.

Ever on their guard, the DRVN people and army stand ready to share and co-ordinate their fighting with their southern kith and kin. Everywhere, US aircraft and war vessels have been encircled by North Viet Nam's dense fire.

Between April 1 and 9, six US war vessels were shot ablaze, and 16 aircraft downed by Quang Binh and Vinh Linh people and army, thus bringing the number of US planes shot down in North Viet Nam to 3,465 as from August 5, 1964 to April 9, 1972. Remarkably enough, in this drive, Vinh Linh has brought down 3 B.52s and Quang Binh shot down 7 jet planes in a single day. The fresh feats of arms of Quang Binh and Vinh Linh serve an earnest warning to Nixon and his likes. However vile their moves, either in the sky or on the water, they have been duly curbed.

US War Escalation Condemned by the whole of Viet Nam

Declaration of the DRVN Government

The DRVN Government on April 11 made public a declaration condemning the extremely serious US war escalation against North Viet Nam.

After denouncing that, on Nixon's order, continuous air strikes by hundreds of US planes, and shellings from the 7th Fleet against Vinh Linh area and Quang Binh, Ha Tinh provinces and Vinh township, have caused numerous losses in lives and property of the local population, the declaration stressed:

...THIS is a new, extremely serious move of war escalation of the US imperialists, a very crude encroachment on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, an act trampling underfoot the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and all elementary principles of international law, a very brazen violation of the US government's pledge to stop completely and without condition the bombardments on the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is an extremely insolent US challenge to the broad segments of public opinion in the world and in the United States, which are firmly urging the Nixon administration to stop at once the war of aggression in Indochina and bring all US troops home, to stop forthwith using the puppet administrations to carry out neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia...

By undertaking a new military adventure against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Nixon administration is attempting to save the "Vietnamization" plan which is being seriously threatened with collapse. This is further evidence of the fact that "Vietnamization" is not designed to end the war of aggression but only to prolong, intensify and expand it. "Vietnamization" is not designed to "end the US involvement in Viet Nam" but will only make the United States sink ever deeper in the bog in Viet Nam, Indochina and Southeast Asia.

However, the US bombs have failed, and will never be able, to subdue the heroic Vietnamese people. The Nixon administration should remember that in the past the US imperialists mobilized very big air, naval and ground forces, to conduct a local war in the South and a war of destruction in the North, yet they sustained a humiliating defeat. Now the more hysterical and truculent the Nixon administration, the heavier its defeats, and the more it unmasks its aggressive, obdurate and bellicose features. The Vietnamese people are firmly resolved to fight and to win; and they are sure to completely defeat all new military adventures of the United States, and the "Vietnamization" policy. No brutal force, no insolent threat could shake the Vietnamese people's determination to fight for the independence and freedom of their fatherland.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam calls on the entire army and people to close their ranks, carry out with all their forces the Testament of the Venerated President HO CHI MINH, to persist in and step up the resistance, to fight so that all US aggressors are withdrawn, and the puppet army and administration topple, to liberate the South, defend and build the socialist North, to proceed to the peaceful reunification of the country; let them closely unite with the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia, and resolutely strive to completely defeat the "Nixon doctrine" in Indochina...

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam calls on the governments and peoples of the fraternal socialist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries, the international organizations, the peoples of the world and the American people to take timely actions to check the US aggressors' hysterical move of the war escalation, to extend even stronger support and assistance to the just patriotic fight of the Vietnamese people, and for the peoples of Laos and Cambodia as well, until total victory.

RSVN Foreign Ministry's declaration

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Viet Nam on April 8 issued a declaration on the Nixon administration's new extremely serious military adventure against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

After recalling that in the past few days, the Nixon administration has flung notable air and naval forces against numerous populated areas of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces and Vinh Linh area, causing heavy losses in lives and resources, the declaration said:

The new military adventure of the Nixon administration has more exposed its aggressive, bellicose and stubborn nature and the true colour of its "good-will for peace." Perpetrating its new military adventure against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Nixon administration hopes to force the Vietnamese people to give up their legitimate right to self-defence. But this scheme of the US aggressors will surely meet with bitter failure. The Nixon administration must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from its barbarous war acts.

The declaration stressed:

As long as the US imperialists adventurously continue their bombing and strafing against North Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are resolved to inflict on them heavier punishing blows.

Artillerymen of the 4th military zone (DRVN) ready to down US planes

LONG LIVE THE JIRON SPIRIT!

ON April 19 eleven years ago the people and armed forces of Cuba under their Commander-in-Chief Major Fidel Castro achieved a signal feat at Jiron Beach. In 72 hours the large-scale invasion of the US imperialists and Cuban mercenaries was shattered.

Jiron has since come down in indomitable Cuba's history at the side of such names as Jose Marti, Moseo and Moncada. It has set an example of revolutionary vigilance and combat readiness, of offensive spirit against the enemy, for progressive mankind in the era of moribund imperialism and colonialism. It has given a lesson to the Yankees on the "freedom or death" determination of the heroic people of Cuba.

However, predatory by nature, US imperialism continues to refuse to face the harsh facts and is pursuing a policy of aggresion and blocade against the Freedom Island. Each success, each step forward in the first socialist country in the Western Hemisphere is a thorn in its side. Alarmed and angered to the utmost, Uncle Sam has stopped at no move to block the wheel of history in this part of the world. The weekly *Granma* of Dec. 26, 1971 reported that from early January 1959 to the close of 1971, there occurred on the average 10 major piratical, provocative or sabotage actions against the Republic of Cuba. Upholding the Jiron tradition the Cuban people and their armed forces delivered due counter-blows at each of them. The seizure in December 1971 of the *Leyla Express* and *Johnny Express* working, under the guise of merchant ships, at the service of the CIA was a new manifestation of the Jiron spirit, and a serious warning to North American imperialism and its hirelings.

The Jiron spirit has also instilled into the Cuban people great zeal on the production front for the building of a prosperous society. It has helped create 178 "one-million arobat units," 28 "two-million units" and 3 "three-million units" thanks to which the formerly poor Pine Island (Cuba's second largest) has become the "Youth Island" with 13 middle schools and middle vocational schools, and a 7,000-ton harvest of citrus fruit in 1971, figure which is to reach 8,000 this year.

The Jiron spirit has supplied Cuba with an enthusiastic work force of 200,000 women: the M. Grajales Battalion in Camaguay, with 200 members, was able in 70 days to put 800 hectares under sugar canes, and weed, and apply fertilizers to about 1,000 hectares; a company of Pana del Rio province has sworn to "go anywhere they are needed by the Fatherland." Women play the main role in the fulfilment of such "special plans" as for vegetable and vine growing and hog, goat and sheep raising.

It is also the Jiron spirit which has enabled the Cubans to build new towns, state-farms, welfare institutions and factories.

The Cuban people are rightly proud of their country which the Jiron spirit has turned into a three "nays" land: no unemployment, no illiteracy, no malaria and poliomelitis.

"If it was the intention of the imperialists to go to Viet Nam and make up for the defeat they had sustained at Jiron, they have suffered there still heavier blows. Their recent disaster in the Route 9 — Southern Laos area was more than another Jiron, it was a second Dien Bien Phu."

That statement in early 1971 by Fidel Castro, the leader of the Cuban people, was a tribute to the militant solidarity between Viet Nam and Cuba which, though situated in two different Hemispheres, are bound together by the same combat against Yankee imperialism. For many years the Jiron Battalion of the South Viet Nam liberation forces, actuated by the spirit of its namesake, has been valiantly confronting the enemy and helping its countrymen break their grip and destroy "strategic hamlets." Now the Jiron spirit is stimulating the Cubans to overcome all difficulties so as to bring in a bumper sugar-cane harvest and achieve their 1972 sugar production target.

Throughout South Viet Nam, especially on the Tri Thien, Western Plateaux and Eastern Nam Bo fronts, the South Viet Nam liberation forces and people are mounting devastating attacks on their opponent. The Jiron spirit is partly responsible for their successes.

In a practical manner the Vietnamese and Cuban peoples are commemorating the Jiron victory.

Viet Nam and Cuba will win!

DAI LIEN

A cow-husbandry farm in Cuba named **Ben Tre** *(a province of South Viet Nam)*

Hail the 26th Anniversary of the Arab Republic of Syria

AFTER 3 centuries of relentless, valiant and undaunted struggle against the Turkish, British and French imperialist aggressors, on April 17, 1946, the people of the Arab Republic of Syria regained their independence and freedom.

In the past 26 years, under the leadership of the Baath Party and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Syrians have upheld their nation's fine traditions in the staunch fight for the defence and consolidation of national independence, in their firm resistance to the Israeli aggressors and in national contruction.

In economy, the government and people of Syria have step by step transformed and developed industry and agriculture into steady foundations for an independent and sovereign economy.

The oil, phosphate, cement, nitrogenous fertilizer industries and railway communications have been paid particular attention in the 3rd five-year plan (1971—75). Guided by the principle of making full use of local materials, consuming mainly home-made goods and restricting imports of foreign goods, the textile, sugar making and food processing industries have been expanded at an appropriate rate. A country just freed from brutal imperialist domination and exploitation, the Arab Republic of Syria has, however, succeeded in a short period of time in efficiently managing and exploiting its own oil resources. This achievement is one of its prides.

In agriculture, with Soviet assistance, apart from medium and small-sized irrigation projects, the country is building the Euphrate Dam, capable of storing enough water to irrigate the fields and to be a vast source of power supply for production and everyday life. Recently, the Syrian government has begun the building of a new agricultural region in Euphrate and established many model farms where a new life for the people will be shaped.

The Syrian people have developed a comprehensive law system which enables them to take part in the administration and supervision of state affairs, through the agency of people's councils set up at all administration echelons. It is stipulated that 60 per cent of the members of such councils should be workers, farmers and other labouring people elected through universal suffrage to ensure respect for their rights and interests. The state recognizes the right of workers to elect their representatives to take part in factory management. Land-poor peasants are given land to till.

As a precaution against the vicious schemes of the US imperialists and Israeli aggressors, the Syrian Arab Republic has been making constant efforts to strengthen its national defence, ready to foil all enemy military adventures.

In February this year, the Syrian armed forces and people beat off an Israeli attack on Palestine Resistance forces in Syrian territory.

The government and people of Syria have always expressed their approval and support for the Vietnamese people's resistance to US aggression and for national salvation. President Assad has said: "The heroic Vietnamese people have given an anti-imperialist lesson not only to our people but also to the world's peoples. We fully support the legitimate fight of the Vietnamese people until final victory. Syria always stands by the side of the Vietnamese people, and supports the people of Viet Nam and Indochina as a whole with everything in its power."

The head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Baath Party, Mohamed Ali Haladi, has said: "The very courageous struggle of the South Vietnamese people is the standard-bearer of the national liberation movement in the world, and is setting an example of staunchness and dauntlessness to the revolutionary movements and to ourselves. Syria is very proud of having a heroic comrade-in-arms in South Viet Nam. We regard it as an honour to be able to give some symbolical support to the South Vietnamese people."

In all parts of Syria, including the capital city Damascus, many weeks of solidarity with the Vietnamese people, and many meetings in support of the South Vietnamese people in their fight against US imperialist aggression have been held. In the face of the aggressive schemes and moves of the US imperialists, the Syrian press, radio and television have given a wide coverage and carried articles praising the South Vietnamese people's resistance and their successes and strongly condemning and denouncing the US-Saigon crimes while constantly exposing US-Saigon lies regarding the prolongation and expansion of the aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina.

The sympathy and support of the Syrian government and people has been a strong stimulus to our people. We sincerely thank them for their militant solidarity. With pride, we rejoice over the successes obtained by the Syrian people in all fields over the past 26 years as our own. We insist that the Israeli aggressors withdraw from the territories they have illegally seized from the Arab Republic of Syria and other Arab countries, that they respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the peoples of the Arab countries and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The South Vietnamese are determined to defeat the US aggressors in Viet Nam so as to make a practical contribution to the struggle of the Arab peoples in the Mid-East and to the national liberation movement in the world.

On the occasion of this historic day of the Syrian people, the South Vietnamese people sincerely wish them still greater successes in the defence and building of their country.

May the friendship and militant solidarity between Viet Nam and Syria be strengthened with every passing day!

In the USA

Spring Actions Started

ON April 1, 1972, under the Spring Action program put forward by the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ), over 5,000 Americans from all states demonstrated in Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) for an end to the Nixon aggression in Viet Nam and against repression of American anti-war fighters.

Speaking by telephone to the demonstrators, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister and Head of the RSVN PRG Delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, strongly condemned the US administration for bringing to trial 7 Harrisburg war protesters, denounced US crimes in South Viet Nam, accused the American government of sabotaging the Paris Conference and urged freedom for Philip Berrigan, Angela Davis and other anti-war Americans.

On the same occasion, Nguyen Minh Vy, Head of the DRVN Delegation to the Paris Conference, pressed for Nixon's unequivocal answer to the question: "While Mr Nixon is drum beating about his search for peace and concern for the POW's, why on earth does he step up the war? How can he by so doing bring home US POW's? Since he has put off *sine die* US attendance to the Paris Conference, how can he find peace?"

On April 1, 100, 200 American citizens demonstrated in front of the Hickam air base and in the suburbs of Honolulu (Hawai) to protest Nixon's intensification of the aerial war in Viet Nam and Indochina. Professor Jame Douglas of Hawai University pointed out that "our brothers and sisters in Indochina" were being killed by US planes taking off from that air base.

One day before, over 1,000 delegates of anti-war organizations demonstrated in front of the New Cumberland military base, carrying coffins full of medals of Viet Nam Veterans, draft-cards, sham bombs and American flags.

On April 5, at Yale University (Connecticut), hundreds of students shouted anti-war slogans, expressing their solidarity with the legitimate resistance of the Indochinese peoples against US aggression and protesting against Westmoreland who had come to plead for the aggressive war. The latter had to cancel his lecture and leave.

Three trade-union leaders returning from a recent visit to the DRVN published a statement (April 3) stressing that the US must not drag on the Viet Nam war, not even for one more day.

On April 4, at the first post-Easter Senate session, Mansfield once again urge that Nixon withdraw all American troops from Viet Nam and that the US delegation return to the Paris Conference. Protesting against the use of US air force and combat troops to counter the current PLAF attacks, he pointed out that the massive bombing meant more US aircraft shot down and more Americans killed or taken prisoner.

On April 4, Senator Mc Govern said on TV that the American people expected an end to the hopeless war in Viet Nam, and an end to the assistance to the US bayonet-supported and rotten Saigon regime. He reiterated the demand that US troops should be withdrawn from South Viet Nam in 90 days and no more military and financial aid be given to the Saigon administration.

Jane Fonda's voice arousing the GIs' anti-war feelings

THE OPPORTUNITY TO SCORE EXPLOITS...

(Continued from page 1)

Our resistance to US aggression for national salvation is facing a new situation with very favourable opportunities.

We are holding the initiative, and in a winning and uptrend position. The US aggressors and their lackeys are in losing, passive and downward position.

Our people and the liberation armed forces united and closely coordinating with the fraternal Cambodian and Lao peoples and liberation armed forces are determined to overcome all difficulties and bring into full play all the favourable conditions, smash all the enemy counter-offensives, duly punish the US aggressors' criminal acts against our people in both zones, enhancing the mettle of offensive to win great victory, frustrate the "Vietnamization of the war" strategy in order to bring our people's struggle to complete victory.

The opportunity to score exploits has come!

For the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, let all the officers and combatants on all battlefields dash forward in the impetus of victory!

We will certainly win total victory.

in brief

o Every day the German Free Trade Union Federation (GDR) receives from the workers hundreds of letters expressing solidarity with the fighting Vietnamese people and demanding settlement by the US of the Viet Nam issue on the basis of the PRG 7-point peace proposal. In the first quarter of 1972 the GDR Trade Union organizations contributed 5 million marks to the "Viet Nam fund" run by that federation, bringing it to 116 million since 1966.

The proceeds derived from the sale of ancient biological specimens by the Natural Science Museum in Berlin also go to that fund.

Since early this year the GDR has sent to Viet Nam under the aid program such goods as medicines and medical appliances to the tune of 4.5 million marks.

o Nearly one thousand youths from various countries took part in the meeting organized on the night of April 5 in Havana by the Managing Board of the International Youth's Voluntary Labour Camp in Cuba, to express their support to, and solidarity with, the Indochinese peoples.

The delegates from Cuba, the United States, the Soviet Union, Algeria, Puerto Rico, etc., strongly condemned the US government for prolonging and extending the Indochina war and urged that Nixon put an end to it.

o The joint communiqués signed between Romania and Sudan and between Palestine and Yugoslavia stressed support to, and solidarity with, the heroic Indochinese peoples in their war against US aggression.

o The 6th TU Congress held from March 23 to 26, 1972 in Guinea, adopted a resolution pointing that "the US continues committing untold crimes against the Vietnamese people. We express our admiration for the courage of the Vietnamese people."

o On the evening of March 29, a meeting held at the Bandera theatre, in downtown Santiago, under the sponsorship of the Chilean Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam, passed a resolution scoring Nixon's "POW week" as a move to sidetrack public attention in the US and in the world from the key problems and whitewash US war crimes against the Vietnamese people. The resolution wholeheartedly supported the PRG 7-point peace proposal and February 2, 1972 elaboration.

At the meeting, the TU organizations of the Supetech and Sumaseda textile factories put at the disposal of the Vietnamese people 5,530 escudos subscribed by their workers during their TU Congress to "help the heroic Vietnamese."

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION